From Spark to Space

HAMATEUR CHATTER

One of the World's Oldest Continuously Active Radio Amateur Clubs - - since 1917

Volume 09 No. 3 May

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From The President's Desk

Dave DeFebo - WB9BWP

Well, let's see, since the last newsletter we held a General class, worked Superfest, worked on Field Day planning, got a location for the Christmas Party, designed and ordered some sample club badges, held some testing sessions, finished and printed and began distributing part 1 of the club history (paper and electronic), held an auction and a few other things. Now, except for testing, all this work was done by a handful of people. Were you one of those people? If not, why not? Last year I kept harping about our money situation. This year it is about volunteers.

At last year's board meetings we had a continuing discussion about our operating budget. The result was that at the end of 2000 we drafted a budget which could actually show us as almost breaking even for 2001 (instead of loosing $1000-$1300 or so). Actually we will see if we did any good at the end of this year (but I'm guessing we are pretty close so far). Since that tactic seemed to work (a recurring discussion over several months), I am trying it again this year on another club problem. That problem is our direction, focus, business plan, whatever, and how we can achieve it, mainly committees and volunteers. I would like to have official committees for large/recurring club activities. Those committees would be self supporting as far as manpower goes (people-power?). Let's use classes as an example.

We will have the MRAC Education Committee. If you would like to be part of that committee (instructor, pr, materials, whatever), you volunteer. You don't have to be a director, officer, anything. Maybe not even a member. What, not even a member? Over the years we have had a number of people as VEs and class instructors who were not club members. This is because we do not necessarily twist anyone's arm to become a member and also because we need more volunteers than we get from the membership (sad, isn't it). Anyway, back to my example. You

Continued on pg 2

Milwaukee Area Nets

DAY	TIME	MHz	ACTIVITY
Daily	6-8 AM	14.290	Wisconsin/Florida (SSB)
Daily	6:30 PM	3.645	WI Slow Speed CW Traffic
Mon-Fri	8:30 AM	3.965	After Breakfast Club (SSB)
Mon.	8:00 PM	146.445	Emergency Net
Mon.	9:00 PM	146.670	ARES Net (Milwaukee-Waukesha)
Mon.	9:00 PM	50.160	6 Mtr. General Net
Tue.	9:00 PM	50.160	6 Mtr. 2nd Shifter's net
Tue.	8:00 PM	144.250	Badger Contesters (SSB)
Tue.	8:00 PM	7.035	A.F.A.R. (CW)
Wed.	8:00 PM	28.365	10/10 International (Milwaukee Ch.) (SSB)

DAY	TIME	MHz	ACTIVITY
Thu	9:00 PM	50.160	6 Mtr. General Interest Net
Thu.	9:00 PM	146.91 -	Computer Net
Fri	8:30 PM	28.490	MRAC W9RH 10 meter Net (SSB)
Fri.	9:00 PM	147.045+	W9RH 2 mtr. FM Net after 10 mtr. net
Sat	9:00 PM	146.910-	Saturday Night Fun Net
Sun.	8:30 AM	3.985	QCWA (Chptr 55) (SSB)
Sun.	10:00 AM	443.800+	FM-38 link to 146.88 Baraboo SWAP Net
Sun.	8:00 PM	28.365	10/10 International (Milwaukee Ch.) (SSB)
Sun.	8:00 PM	146.91-	Information Net
Sun.	9:00 PM	146.91-	Swap Net

Two meter (FM) Frequencies are 600 KHz offset repeaters. FM 38 is + 5 MHz. Ten meter (SSB) frequencies are upper sideband (USB).

Additions and/or corrections are appreciated. Contact: **Pancho Doneis @ (414) 344-4694**

Prez Cont. from pg. 1

have volunteered to be on the education committee. The group decides who will act as committee main contact. The president points a finger and that person is made an official whatever (and the others are official committee members). The by-laws say the President can do that. From that point on, the group takes care of itself. They make all arrangements, handle all PR, get all materials, whatever. The committee contact (or someone else agreed upon) reports to the board on the activities of the committee (and asks for money if they need some). The board does not get into the details of the committee unless something happens where it really needs to. The committee is large enough so if someone gets sick, or leaves town, or just gets tired, someone else on the committee can step in and everything runs smoothly. Again, the board does not have to worry. Doesn't this sound neat? So what does the board do if committees run everything? The board can concentrate on the "business" things like spending money, making money, membership, legal stuff, and other business things. They don't have to spend 3 board meetings discussing the Christmas Party or Field Day arrangements.

We have held a Technician class last fall and so far this year one Technicia class and one General class. Why do we hold classes? They can be some good PR and may get some new members to the club. But the most important reason is to help people get into and advance in the hobby. Being one of the oldest clubs anywhere, we should have much experience in the hobby as any group. Who better to help train new people? By the way, final numbers are not in yet but we have at least 13 new technician licenses and one new Extra (from nothing) from those two classes. No details on new Generals yet (but there are some).

In the last issue I ran out of room to properly say goodbye to Barbara Brewer KB9TIV and Ken Caruso KS4NX. They left town a few days after the April meeting for Alabama. I only knew them for a few short years, but they did make an impression. They joined the club and quickly became involved. Barbara was even director for 1999-2001. They helped out at many test sessions, ran two technician classes and even donated a number of items to the club to auction off (even though no one wanted to buy the tree at the April meeting). Barbara also took care of a number of monthly mailings (getting the printing, folding, stamping, mailing) and of course made breakfast at last year's Field Day (how do we top the pancakes?). Ken also offered to be part of the repeater future committee (but left before he could have input). During their brief time here they attended most meetings, field days, and Christmas parties. This does not even cover any work they did for other groups. Good luck Barbara and Ken and we'll miss you both.

Did you order a MRAC ID badge yet? Ordering info was in the last newsletter. Show the world you are a MRAC member. Order a badge.

For something beyond our club's boundaries, have you volunteered for any local public service activity this year, yet? Or are you just interested in furthering our image of the old f*(&k club who just sit around and talk about the good old days? Amateur radio operates as a public service, so do something about it, do your part (and volunteer for some club work too).

David B. Moeller

Summer Testing Opportunity

As you probably know, there has been a scarcity of testing opportunities in southeast Wisconsin during the summer months. MRAC VEC has decided to hold a VE session in mid summer. It will be held on Saturday July 28, 2001 at 9:30 AM at AES. If the session is well attended, we'll consider repeating this service in future years.

VEC News

The MRAC VEC sponsored VE testing on May 26, 2001 at AES. There were 17 candidates, and 12 were successful in either upgrading or in qualifying for their initial license. Those VE's who gave up part of the holiday weekend to conduct the testing included the following:

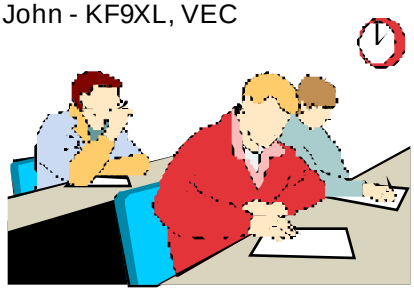
Mark Bye KB9LDX
Jim Cronin K9UGD
Tom Czaja KG9EE
Bob Immekus W9CYI
Kate Kedney KA9MWT
John Kraak KF9XL
Jack Krause W9JK
Patrick Moretti KA1RB
Sherm Swanson KB9Q

With a special thanks to our "visiting VE" Sean Kedney N9EBJ of Bowie, MD who is a VE with the Laurel, MD VEC but more importantly is the son of Kate Kedney KA9MWT.

73,

John (KF9XL)

John - KF9XL, VEC



MRAC March Board Meeting 5/29/2001

Previous meeting minutes were read and approved as written.

Treasurers report -- No report due to Treasurer being on vacation.

June Board meeting will be at John Merkl's house , WB9PSE.

Matt, KB9PRC, has volunteered to be Treasurer at the club auction on Thursday night in Les's absence.

The July meeting will be audience participation night. Subject will be the type of radio's used by the members.

Dave, WB9BWP, asked for volunteers to update the by-laws. Jim, WB9LNU volunteered.

VEC Report -- John , KF9XL, says he will not be going to the National NCVEC Meeting this year. Testing had 17 people at the Holiday session in the end of May. John also says that he knows a few people that are willing to help as back-up VEC. He says that the person he picks will have to be computer literate.

Field Day -- All is ready! Matt will bring the food.

Classes -- The General class is now complete. It went for 6 weeks. Dave is waiting for some Gorden West stuff that can be used as teaching aids. The CW over the air is still not established. Dave says he would like a committee to be established to formulate the classes and schedules so the Board doesn't have to be involved all the time. The Board will help in every way possible, but this is a chance for some member participation. Special thanks to our hard working teachers!

Roster -- The new Roster is now ready for distribution. The exact method of distribution has not be determined yet. Perhaps as an addition to the Chatter and via E-Mail.

Chatter -- The electronic version will be held to 500k whenever possible. This will help members with slow modems.

Badges -- Member cards are ready. The plastic version is available through Capitol Engraving.

Repeater -- Nick, KA9LUW has volunteered to be on the committee to work on the future of the repeater. The technical group will be trying one antenna to see if better results to the south can be obtained. Also will be experimenting with shielding inside the new repeater to see if shading the receiver by the transmitter can be reduced or eliminated.

The President will ask for a motion at the club meeting to accept the candidates for re-election and one new Director since no-one else is running for the 3 positions.

John Merkl says he possibly will have time to handle the details for the Christmas Party. Any more volunteers????? Thanks again Verne, W9RYA, for finding a site!

Dave, our President, would like to establish a policy for exactly how we should handle questions that are on the club's telephone answer machine. Technical questions can't be answered unless we have a volunteer that want's to tackle these problems. Example: we have people asking what would happen if they change capacitor values in some experimental circuit they are working with.

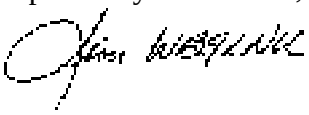
It's obvious we need someone technically inclined to do this. Any volunteers?? The answer machine is at our VEC's QTH.

Dave's final note: Volunteer's for committee's are needed. Membership participation is low.

How do we get more members active?

Meeting adjourned at 9:20.

Respectfully submitted,



Jim - WB9LNU
Secretary

HamateurChatter

is the newsletter of MRAC (Milwaukee Radio Amateurs' Club) which is a not for profit organization for the advancement of amateur radio and the maintenance of fraternalism and and a high standard of conduct.
MRAC Membership dues are $15.00 per year and run on a calendar year starting with January1.
Our Club/VEC Phone no. is (262) 797-MRAC.
Correspondence may be addressed to:

M. R. A. C.
Milwaukee Radio Amateurs' Club
P.O. Box 070695
Milwaukee, WI 53207-0695

Our meetings are normally at 7:00 PM.
the last Thursday of the month except for December.

Visit our website at:
http://www.qsl.net/mrac/

March Club Meeting 5/31/2001

MRAC Club Meeting 5/31/2001

The previous meeting minutes were read and approved as written.

No Treasurers report due to Les being on vacation.

The mic was passed for all to I.D.

Tonights meeting is the annual meeting for election of 3 Directors and also the clubs annual auction night. Also a sample roster was passed out for the members present to check it for accuracy.

Matt Planning's code practice will hopefully start soon. It will be a round table format. That means that you must have some basic sending ability to participate. You can always just listen and try to copy what is being sent by others. Dick WB9PTC, says he will try to help also, whenever he feels O.K.

Brian, K9LCQ, says that most everything is ready for Field Day. Don't forget it's also club picnic day on Saturday June 23rd, at the Field Day site.

The membership confirmed the three Directors that ran for election. Pancho - KA9OFA, John - WB9PSE, and Tom - KB9RLB.

Business meeting adjourned at 7:35, so the auction could commence. As usual Dave was our auctioneer and did an outstanding job. He was very entertaining in the process. He kept us laughing all the time! Thanks Dave.

Thanks again to our kitchen crew for your special effort every month!!!

Respectfully submitted,

Jim - WB9LNU

Secretary

New VE License Renewal Policy

MRAC VEC Now Accepts Renewal Applications by Mail

As a convenience to fellow ham radio operators, the MRAC VEC now accepts applications for license renewal by mail. Completed forms may be mailed to:

MRAC VEC

c/o John Kraak

2025 Michelle Dr.

Brookfield, WI 53045

There is a $5.00 fee for this service. Free application forms are available by mail, e-mail, or the Internet. For mailed requests, please include a stamped, self-addressed envelope. A PDF version of the form is available by writing me at tfuszard@aero.net. You may also obtain a copy by visiting our web site at www.qsl.net/mrac <http://www.qsl.net/mrac> . (The link may be found under "Upcoming License Testing Sessions.")

Complete and sign the form, and return to John Kraak. Remember to include your check (no cash, please) made payable to MRAC. There is no charge for applications submitted during an MRAC test session.

Amateur radio operators may apply for a renewal any time within 90 days of expiration, or during a two-year grace period following license expiration. However, hams may not operate during the grace period until their licenses are renewed.

MRAC VEC will process renewal applications along with the other applications received during a test session. Applications received by mail will be held until the next test session. Hams are reminded that they are responsible for ensuring that their licenses are renewed on time.

Our regular Exam schedule will recommence the last Saturday in September. For further information visit our web site, or call our hotline at 262-797-MRAC.

Tom Fuszard - KF9PU

Club Badges

Last year we had some homemade badges for members. This year we decided to return to the old form of membership card (the treasurer will fill in your name, call and year of membership). We've made arrangements for a badge to wear (see above). If you are interested, contact them directly. The cost is $8.75 + $1.00 shipping. This is **NOT** a fund raiser for the club. To rder contact:

Capital Engraving,
3109 Marigold St
Longview, Wa 98632
1-800-628-4985

http://www.open.org/~capengrv/

email:
capengrav@a.com

Just tell them you are interested in the badge for the Milwaukee Radio and of course your mailing address (a check or credit card would be nice too). (the actual badge may be slightly different from the pictured sample)

Ready For Field Day?

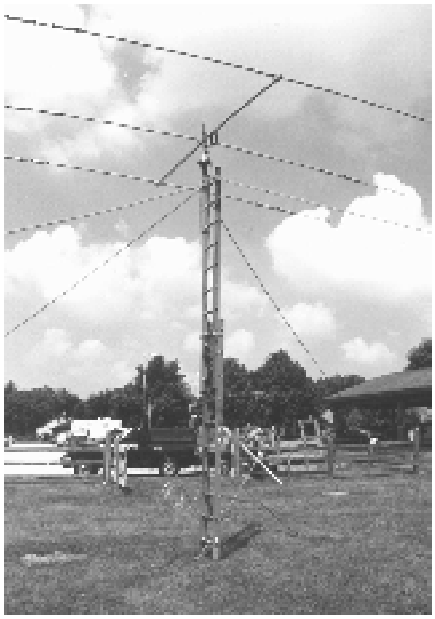
If you haven't started thinking about this year's field day, now's the time. This year, Field Day is Sat. & Sun. - June 23 & 24. Our Field Day site is at the Cedarburg train depot at Pioneer Village, 10 miles north of Cedarburg on Highwy "I".

We generally start setting up on Saturday somewhere between 8:00 and 8:30 AM. Then we start operating at noon on Saturday(trying to see how many contacts we can accrue). We finish operating at noon on Sunday. Then we start packing away our equipment in preparation for the next "emergency" or Field Day.

Some of us will be there from start to finish, operating through the night or however long we can stay awake, etc.

Come on out and join the fun. Stay for a couple of hours or stay all night. It is suggested that if you plan on staying the night, that you bring something comfortable to sleep on (those depot benches aren't the most comfortable sleeping accommodations), bug spray, sun screen, and whatever else you may need to be comfortrable (jackets, sweaters, rain paraphernalia, etc.) (Remember living in Wisconsin, almost anything can, and does happen, weather-wise).

This year we will try a little harder to garner more contacts/points. In the past few years, we have been kind of lax in this respect. We have challenged the Milwaukee Repeater Club to see which club can accumulate the most points this year. Although we are going to turn up the pressure, some, this year, our main thrust is to "HAVE FUN" and check our emergency preparedness.



MRAC ladder tower set up at Field Day site at Pioneer Village 10 miles north of Cedarburg on Hwy "I".

Map to Field Day site at Pioneer Village.

NOW's a good time to check out YOUR emergency preparedness. Check out your rigs, antennas, emergency power supplies and other supplies. We will have several stations set up with various options. Some of the options are: QRP operation, SSB, CW, 2 meter operation, APRS, etc. We will have our famous "ladder tower", a solar station, an APRS station among other interesting modes of operation.

Regardless of your class of license, you can take over a mic or key for awhile because our station trustee has an Extra Class license and there will be plenty of help around to "get on the air" and help you through the tough spots (like logging contacts, mic fright, etc.).

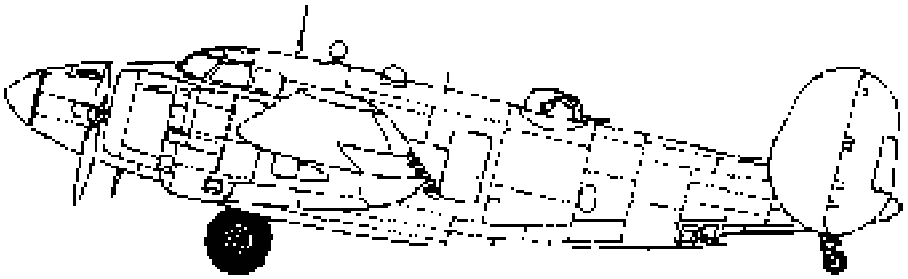
Aside from being a field day, it is also a time for a "family picnic". Bring out the family, friends, etc. Take a tour through Pioneer Village and the train depot (complete with a caboose, working telegraph, etc.) There are also displays of how people lived and made a living. It's a good time to take a look at the way things were (the good times, so to speak.)

Come on out and take your place at a mic or key, help set up and/or tear down or just come on out and have some fun.

73,

Pancho - KA9OFA

“PV-2D Harpoon”



CAF Invitation

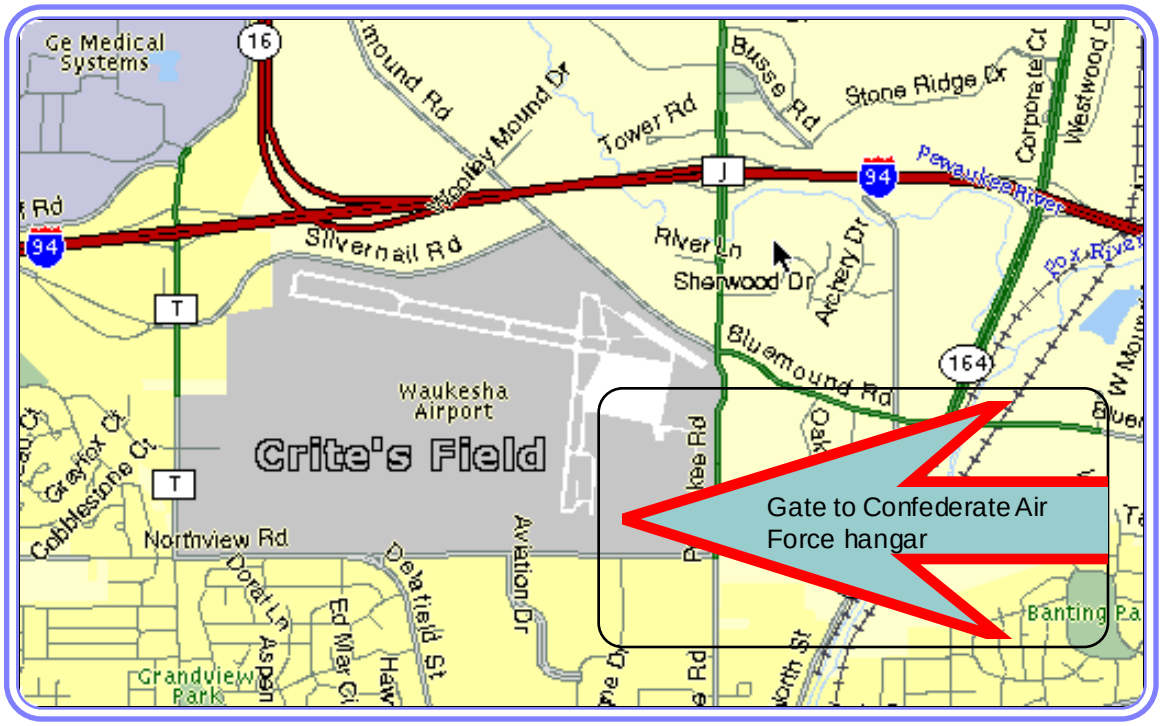
All members of MRAC are invited to the Confederate Air Force Hangar on Thursday - June 28th for our June meeting to see their progress in restoring their PV-2 Harpoon military plane.

Our invitation comes from Bill Tromblay - N9UNS and the entire C.A.F. group.

All members who wish to attend may bring a friend if they like. Enter at the Southeast corner of the field. Jim - WB9LNU will wait at the gate to let everyone in from 6:30 - 7:00 PM. After 7:10 you will need the gate code which is **1836#**. Go straight up the ariport road to the end. Look for a blue and yellow hangar. There is a CAF sign in front of the building. No prior sign-up is required.

The Club will have a short business meeting prior to our tour.

Jim Tromblay - WB9LNU
MRAC Secretary



EVENTS

* indicates Vec Testing

SMARC SwapFest '01
SAT. - JULY 7, 2001,
American Legion Post 434
Oak Creek, WI
T/I on 146.52 simp.

KarsFest
JUL. 8, 2001
Will Co. Fairgrounds
Peotone, IL
T/I on 146.94- MHz

FRRL HamFest *
SUN. - JUL. 22, 2001
Waubonsee Community Colege
Sugar Grove, IL
T/I on 147.210+ MHz (107.2)

Circus City SwapFest *
K Sat. - Aug. 11, 2001
Sauk Co. Fairgrounds
Baraboo, WI
T/I on 147.315+ (123.0 PL

HamFesters Radio Club HamFest
Aug. 12, 2001
Will Co. Fairgrounds
Peotone, IL
T/I on 146.64 - MHz (107.2
or 146.52 simp.

HamFest 2001 *
Sun. - Aug. 26, 2001
Inwood Recreation Ctr.
Joliet, IL
T/I on 147.33 (+)
and 224.54- MHz

Peoria SuperFest 2001 *
Fri.- Sun. Sept. 14-16, 2001
Exposition Gardens Fairgrounds
Peoria, IL
T/I on 147.075 (+)

Radio Expo 2001*
Sat. & Sun. - Sep. 22 & 23, 2001
Lake Co. Fairgrounds
Grayslake, IL
T/I on 146.16/76 MHz (107.2)

birthdate

July

Robert Tisdale	AA9VO	Jul-06
Fred Recklies	KB9JBG	Jul-14
Carlos R. Barron	KG9FC	Jul-16
Charles Ackermann	W9OWM	Jul-17
Mike McKenna	KB9MMI	Jul-20
Bessie G. Beider	N9QIT	Jul-25
Thomas R. Murtaugh	W9VBQ	Jul-25
Robert E. Hetzel	W9VQG	Jul-29

August

Bette Schlesinger	KB9JML	Aug-09
John D. Merkl	WB9PSE	Aug-10
Mark E. Borski	KB9VJN	Aug-11
Robert L. Willett	K9UML	Aug-19
Thomas M. Schulte	KB9RLB	Aug-19
Verne Teske	W9RYA	Aug-22
David B. DeFebo	WB9BWP	Aug-22
Erwin G. Reiser	K9CUI	Aug-27
Fr William J. Kidd, S.J.	NE9W	Aug-29
Fred A. Linn	W9NZF	Aug-31

¡¡ Happy Birthday !!

The next test session will be July 28th at 9:30AM at AES.

Meeting Schedule

Our Meeting schedule for the remainder of the year is as follows:

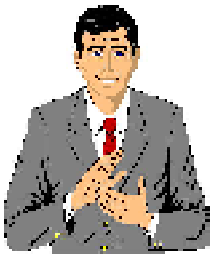
June 28,
July 26,
August 30,
Sept. 27
Oct. 25,
Nov. 29,

See you there!
Pancho - KA9OFA

Credits

Our thanks to our 'news contributors this month:

WB9BWP WB9LNU KF9PU
K9LCQ KF9XL



Thanks also to Rita, Michelle, and Julie Doneis for their help in the proofreading dept. Our thanks goes to John Merkl and Norman Russell for making sure that the 'Chatter gets printed, stamped, and mailed.

Thanks also to Alfred Huwald and Myron Hendrickson for taking care of refreshments at our meetings.

Thanks also goes to Tom Sherlowsky and Jacquie Horwitz for taking care of the raffle at the meetings.

Special thanks to all of our officers (past and present) who have tirelessly toiled for the good of the Club and Amateur Radio in general.

Many Thanks

M.R.A.C.

Meetings are held the last Thursday of each month except in December. The next meeting is Thursday - June 28, 2001.
They take place at 7:00 PM at:

Redemtion Lutheran Church
Fellowship Hall
4057 N. Mayfair Rd.
(Use the south entrance)
HANDICAPPED ACCESSIBLE

Please! Don't call the Church for information!

Field Day is Sat. & Sun. – June 23 & 24 (just prior to our June meeting) at Pioneer Village, 10 miles north of Cedarburg on Hwy."I". See pg 5 for details.

Our June meeting is will be a trip to Crites field in Waukesha to see the (in progress) restoration of the CAF PV-2D Harpoon airplane.

Our Repeater
is an open one.
Use it or lose it.
147.045 MHz + offset.

Visit our Website

http://www.qsl.net/mrac/

Volume 09 No. 3 May

One of the World's Oldest Continuously Active Radio Amateur Clubs -- since 1917
Phone (262) 797-MRAC -- Use Our Club Repeater 147.045 + offset

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